

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 NEA-10 /160 W

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P R 091400Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2668

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR RW IS

SUBJ: RWANDA BREAKS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

1. SUMMARY: RWANDA RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT COMMITTEE FOR PEACE AND NATIONAL UNITY HAD DECIDED BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AS OF OCTOBER 8. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR INFORMED BY FONMIN NSEKALJE OCTOBER 9 THAT DECISION "PAINFUL" AND THAT ISRAELIS COULD HAVE SEVERAL DAYS TO WIND UP AFFAIRS. FONMIN INFORMED ME DECISION PROMPTED BY CONCERN FOR RWANDA'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND WAS NOT REPEAT NOT RESULT OF ARAB PRESSURE. DEPT REQUESTED REPEAT INFO IN THIS CABLE TO NEAR EAST POST AS APPROPRIATE. END SUMMARY.

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2. RADIO RWANDA NEWS HAS ANNOUNCED DECISION BY

COMMITTEE FOR PEACE AND NATIONAL UNITY TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AS OF OCTOBER 8. ANNOUNCEMENT SAID DECISION DICTATED BY GOR'S ATTACHMENT TO OAU AND UN CHARTERS AND ACCUSED ISRAEL OF DELIBERATELY REFUSING IMPLEMENT UN RESOLUTIONS. ISRAEL SAID TO OCCUPY TERRITORY OF "BROTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY" BY FORCE AND WAS "AGGRESSIVE, ANNEXATIONIST AND EXPANSIONIST" IN NOT WITHDRAWING FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. GOR AFFIRMED "TOTAL SUPPORT" TO ARAB COUNTRIES AND ASSURED EGYPTIAN PEOPLE OF SOLIDARITY DURING PRESENT WAR. RAQDIO ALSO BROADCAST TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA TO SADAT EXPRESSING RWANDAN SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE.

3. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR GARYN SUMMONED BY FONMIN NSEKALIJE MORNING OCTOBER 9 TO BE OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF DECISION. GARYN INFORMED ME BY TELEPHONE FONMIN HAD CALLED DECISION TO BREAK RELATIONS "PAINFUL" AND SAID ISRAELI EMBASSY COULD HAVE SEVERAL DAYS TO WIND UP AFFAIRS. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR SAID HE INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN ABOUT ONE WEEK. ONE ISRAELI EMBASSY STAFF MEMBER MAY BE ALLOWED TO SAY LONGER BECAUSE HIS WIFE HOSPITALIZED.

4. FONMIN ASKED ME TO COME TO HIS OFFICE AFTER MEETING WITH ISRAELI AMBASSADOR. NSEKALIJE, OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED AND ILL AT EASE, REPEATED LINE THAT DECISION PAINFUL BUT NECESSARY. HE SAID IT PROMPTED BY:

A. RWANDA'S DESIRE TO SEE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM RESOLVED PEACEFULLY BY NEGOTIATIONS;

B. RWANDA'S SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER OAU COUNTRIES, ONE OF WHICH HAD TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL;

C. MORE SPECIFICALLY, NSEKALIJE REFERRED TO RWANDA'S DESIRE IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND THAT BURUNDI, UGANDA AND ZAIRE HAD ALL BROKEN RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. IN DEFENSIVE TONE, FONMIN INSISTED THAT RECENT ZAIRE DECISION BREAK RELATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DID NOT MEAN SIMILAR DECISION HAD BEEN DICTATED TO RWANDA BY MOBUTU. NSEKALIJE SAID MOBUTU'S CONTINUED ABSENCE FROM ZAIRE WAS "PROOF" THAT RWANDAN DECISION NOT IMPOSED BY ZAIRE.

D. FONMIN ALSO INSISTED DECISION OT RESULT OF ARAB PRESSURE OR FINANCIAL INDUCEMENTS.

5. FONMIN SAID HE INFORMING ME OF ABOVE ON PERSONAL

AND CONFIDENTIAL BASIS AND HE HAD NOT BEEN INSTRUCTED
TO DO SO BY PRESIDENT. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR
MINISTER'S THOUGHTFULNESS IN FINFORMING ME
AND SAID I WOULD COMMUNICATE HIS COMMENTS TO DEPARTMENT.

6. COMMENT: IN VIEW HABYARIMANA GOVERNMENT'S RECENT
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES AND RAISE RWANDA'S STANDING IN OAU, DECISION
NOT SURPRISING. RWANDA WILL NOT LOSE MUCH IN TERMS
OF ECONOMIC AID, WHICH WAS LIMITED TO TWO ADVISORS
TO RWANDAN YOUTH CORPS# OBSERVERS HERE, HOWEVER,
DID NOT REPEAT NOT EXPECT DECISION TO BE TAKEN SO
SUDDENLY, PARTICULARLY IN MIDST OF MIDDLE EAST
FIGHTING.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW MINIMIZE ON NEAR EAST
POSTS, REQUEST DEPARTMENT INFORM TEL AVIV, CAIRO AND
OTHER INTERESTED POSTS OF FOREGOING AS APPROPRIATE.
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Message Attributes

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